



City of Stevenson

Leana Kinley, City Administrator

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To: Stevenson City Council
From: Leana Kinley, City Administrator
RE: Water Meter Non-Billing Discrepancy – Waiving Back-billing
Meeting Date: August 20, 2020

Executive Summary:

The City of Stevenson replaced customer water meters as part of its energy conservation grant. In the process there are thirteen meters identified as not being billed and an additional meter billed at a different rate. According to RCW 4.16.040, the city can back bill, collect on accounts receivable, for up to six years. The accounts here relate to either school district, city or county properties. This would compound the economic struggles of the city's General and Street Fund as they are the largest funds impacted by COVID. The accounts have been added and will be billed as a customer going forward.

Overview of Items:

Meter the city uses for irrigation, water fountains or for the wastewater department have not been billed, however the water has been accounted for in the water loss report. This ensures the water metered for use is not counted against the city as a loss within the system, skewing the leak report. Some of the irrigation meters for street scaping were used when the landscape was initially installed and have been shut-off since. The timeline for the initial discrepancy is unknown and none of the meters were recently installed.

The list of customers and locations impacted and the total difference if they were back billed from January 2018 to present is below. The case for the back-billing waiver for these meters is the same for the waiver approved at the July 16th council meeting. The Attorney General's opinion in the attached document allows the forgiveness in this instance as it will help "...prevent the region's economic collapse from the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis..." The customers impacted are government agencies which have seen a dramatic reduction in revenues since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The final meters for the conservation grant will be installed the end of August and we do not anticipate an additional issues going forward.

Customer	Location	Fund	Size	Est Water Cost	Current Status
City	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater	2"	42,802.02	
City	Triangle Gateway Park	General	5/8"	14,486.84	
County	Grange/RV Dump		5/8"	882.32	
City	Rock Creek Irrigation	Streets	1"	-	Off/Not in Use
City	2nd & Russell	Streets	5/8"	882.32	
City	Fairgrounds Lift Station	Wastewater	5/8"	1,929.55	
City	East End Irrigation	Streets	5/8"	2,009.50	
City	West End Irrigation	Streets	5/8"	2,009.50	
City	Irrigation Lower Columbia	Streets		-	Off/Not in Use
City	Columbia (3)	Streets	5/8"	-	Off/Not in Use
City	Rock Creek (3)	Streets	5/8"	819.14	Off/Not in Use
City	Walnut (1)	General	5/8"	882.32	
SCSD	Tennis Courts		1"	565.18	Was billed at 5/8"
	Total Back-Billing 2018-present			67,268.69	

Action Needed:

Approve waiving the back-billing in relation to incorrect meter sizes and non-billed meters for the customers listed above.